

\$200 Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Thursday, the 30th of September,

FIVE NEGRO SLAVES,

To-wit: one Negro man, his wife, and three children.

The man is a black negro, full height, very erect, his face a little thin. He is about forty years of age, and calls himself *Washington Reed*, and is known by the name of Washington. He is probably well dressed, possibly takes with him an ivory headed cane, and is of good address. Several of his teeth are gone.

Mary, his wife, is about thirty years of age, a bright mulatto woman, and quite stout and strong.

The oldest of the children is a boy, of the name of FIELDING, twelve years of age, a dark mulatto, with heavy eyelids. He probably wore a new cloth cap.

MATILDA, the second child, is a girl, six years of age, rather a dark mulatto, but a bright and smart looking child.

MALCOLM, the youngest, is a boy, four years old, a lighter mulatto than the last, and about equally as bright. He probably also wore a cloth cap. If examined, he will be found to have a swelling at the navel.

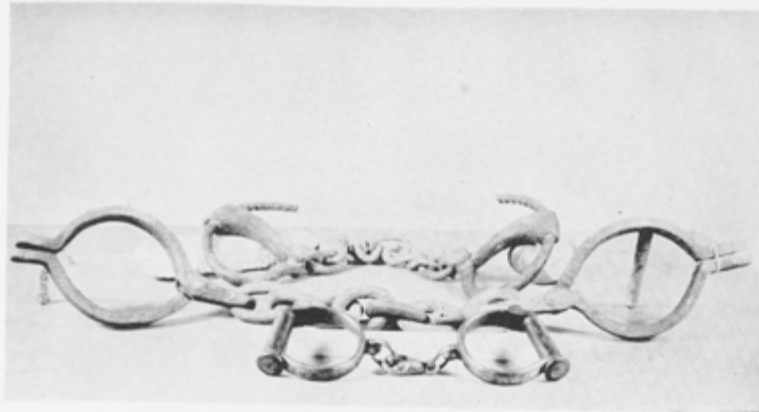
Washington and Mary have lived at or near St. Louis, with the subscriber, for about 15 years.

It is supposed that they are making their way to Chicago, and that a white man accompanies them, that they will travel chiefly at night, and most probably in a covered wagon.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for their apprehension, so that I can get them, if taken within one hundred miles of St. Louis, and \$200 if taken beyond that, and secured so that I can get them, and other reasonable additional charges, if delivered to the subscriber, or to THOMAS ALLEN, Esq., at St. Louis, Mo. The above negroes, for the last few years, have been in possession of Thomas Allen, Esq., of St. Louis.

WM. RUSSELL.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 1, 1847.



SLAVE HANDCUFFS AND LEG IRONS

\$150 REWARD.
RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of
Monday the 11th July, a negro man named
TOM,
about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high; of
dark color; heavy in the chest; several of his jaw
teeth out; and upon his body are several old marks of
the whip, one of them straight down the back. He
took with him a quantity of clothing, and several
hats.
A reward of \$150 will be paid for his apprehension
and security, if taken out of the State of Kentucky;
\$100 if taken in any county bordering on the Ohio
river; \$50 if taken in any of the interior counties ex-
cept Fayette; or \$20 if taken in the latter county.
july 12-84-tf **B. L. BOSTON.**

TOM'S RUNAWAY NOTICE

Runaway slave posters

Before slavery was abolished, newspapers and magazines often carried advertisements like this one from 1784, offering rewards for the recapture of people who had fled from bondage. Though he was born free and was well-educated, Theodore S. Wright risked his own home and well-being every time he helped a runaway reach freedom in Canada.

Runaway Slaves

By Federal Law of the US Congress, 1850

It is Illegal to:

Willingly **obstruct**, hinder, or prevent **from arrest** fugitives from service or labor.

It is Illegal to:

Rescue, or attempt to rescue, fugitives from service or labor, from the custody of such claim.

It is Illegal to:

Aid, abet, or assist such persons so owing service or labor, directly or indirectly, to escape from such claim.

It is Illegal to:

Harbor or conceal fugitives from service or labor, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such persons, after notice or knowledge of the fact that such persons are fugitive from service or labor.

Penalty of Law:

For either of said criminal offences, offenders shall be subject to a fine not exceeding **one thousand dollars**, and **imprisonment** not exceeding six months, by indictment and conviction

and pay, by way of **civil damages** to the parties injured by such illegal conduct, the sum of **one thousand dollars for each fugitive so lost** to be recovered by action of debt.

"Let us put a stop to slave stealing!"

\$150 REWARD



RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of the 2d instant, a negro man, who calls himself *Henry May*, about 22 years old, 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, ordinary color, rather chunky built, bushy head, and has it divided mostly on one side, and keeps it very nicely combed; has been raised in the house, and is a first rate dining-room servant, and was in a tavern in Louisville for 18 months. I expect he is now in Louisville trying to make his escape to a free state, (in all probability to Cincinnati, Ohio.) Perhaps he may try to get employment on a steamboat. He is a good cook, and is handy in any capacity as a house servant. Had on when he left, a dark cassinett coatee, and dark striped cassinett pantaloons, new---he had other clothing. I will give \$50 reward if taken in Louisville; 100 dollars if taken one hundred miles from Louisville in this State, and 150 dollars if taken out of this State, and delivered to me, or secured in any jail so that I can get him again.

WILLIAM BURKE.

Bardstoun, Ky., September 3d, 1838.

Teacher Background Information

This is an American poster advertising a substantial reward for a runaway slave Henry May, in Louisville, Kentucky, 1838. The enslaved were seen as valuable commodities and the high rewards offered for their return illustrate this. Some slaves persistently tried to escape, despite the punishments inflicted on captured runaways. They were held in public cages on the streets for all to see, waiting to be collected by their owners, when they would often receive 100-150 lashes, branding on the face or the loss of an ear.

Until the late 1780s runaways could even have a limb amputated. Although the chances of freedom were slight, for some determined captives escape was preferable to enduring relentless submission of slavery.

Many runaways were absent only for short periods of time, perhaps to visit friends and family on another plantation. Thomas Thistlewood recorded twenty runaways a year on his plantation in Jamaica, but only four of these stayed away for more than ten days. In practice it meant one in a hundred slaves were absent at any one time. More organized attempts at freedom, including by the Maroons in Jamaica and the Underground Railroad in the United States, brought many their freedom.